

Economy and Labor



Economy

As population has increased in Marion and Polk counties, so too has the labor force. The civilian labor force consists of all employed individuals, in addition to those without work who are available and actively seeking employment.

Major sectors of nonfarm payroll employment for 2008 in Marion County include education and health services (22 percent); trade, transportation and warehousing (16 percent); government (16 percent, including public education); and professional and business services (9 percent). The average all-industry wage for Marion County was \$33,810 in 2008. For Polk County, the largest nonfarm covered employment industries include manufacturing (15 percent); trade, transportation, and utilities (12 percent); and agriculture and forestry (10 percent). The 2008 all-industry average wage for Polk County was \$29,886.

Table 2. Marion County Quick Facts

	2000	2009
Labor Force	139,771	157,285
Total Employed Residents	136,579	140,186
Total Unemployed Residents	7,998	17,099
Unemployment Rate	5.5%	10.9%
Number of Businesses (with employees, 2008)	7,657	9,262
Median Household Income (2008 inflation-adjusted)	\$45,423	\$47,204
Percent Owner-Occupied Housing (2008)	62.9%	62.4%

Table 3. Polk County Quick Facts

	2000	2009
Labor Force	33,174	39,891
Total Employed Residents	31,581	36,204
Total Unemployed Residents	1,593	3,687
Unemployment Rate	4.8%	9.2%
Number of Businesses (with employees, 2008)	1,363	1,578
Median Household Income (2008 inflation-adjusted)	\$45,423	\$53,452
Percent Owner-Occupied Housing (2008)	68.4%	69.8%

Source: Oregon Employment Department (www.qualityinfo.org)

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